

letter she received from her health insurance company told her that she is going to be paying \$1,300 more a month next year, \$16,000 a year for a family of four.

People cannot afford this. We have heard all the excuses from those on the other side of the aisle who are determined to stop funding the Affordable Care Act. They say it is just a subsidy for the health insurance companies. Really?

Are you going to tell Kim that she is a health insurance company because she is going to be paying thousands of dollars more a year for her health insurance? Is she a health insurance company? Is Susan from South Kingstown a health insurance company?

No. These are real people who are going to be impacted by the lack of Republican action to lower the cost of healthcare.

We have a plan: Extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits and reverse the cuts to Medicaid so that people do not have to pay thousands of dollars more for their health insurance.

What have we heard from the other side? Nothing. They have no plan. The best they can come up with is they will give everybody a few thousand dollars. We will cut them a check.

Do they have any idea how much it costs to go to the emergency room? Does President Trump have any idea how much an emergency room bill costs? I don't think so.

It is time for our Republican colleagues to do the right thing. It is time to come together in a bipartisan way and listen to the American people. Let's extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits, reverse the Medicaid cuts, and lower costs for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, stop wasting time with ballrooms and bailouts, and instead deliver for the American people.

PROVIDING AN UPDATE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. STRONG of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to provide an 11-month update to the American people.

While most media outlets struggle to be honest with the American people, under the administration of President Donald Trump, a Republican House, and a Republican Senate, America is back.

It is a fact that inflation is down from 5 percent to 2.5 percent. Gas prices have hit a 4-year low, averaging \$2.95 a gallon. Advanced manufacturing and industry are returning to U.S. soil.

President Trump has secured over \$8 trillion in investments that will fuel job growth and create opportunity. The stock market continues to set new all-time highs.

It is a fact that Republicans are committed to making sure hardworking Americans keep more of what they

earn. The Working Families Tax Cut delivered the largest tax cut for middle- and working-class Americans in history, like no tax on tips and no tax on overtime.

It is a fact that the southern border is closed. Drug dealers, sexual predators, human traffickers, and those who illegally invaded our country during the Biden administration from over 160 countries are being returned to the country of their origin.

Under Biden, our emergency departments and local hospitals became the preferred free healthcare provider for illegal aliens, driving healthcare costs through the roof while the American taxpayers footed the bill.

We didn't need legislation to put America first. We needed a new President.

It is a fact that the spirit of cutting waste, fraud, and abuse is alive in Washington, D.C. Funds being sent to foreign countries that hate America have been cut off. Republicans cut \$100,000 for climate resilience in Ghana; cut \$360,000 for gender nonconforming, nonbinary, two-spirit farmers in New York; cut \$24 billion to USAID; cut \$22 billion from Health and Human Services to provide housing and cars for illegal aliens; cut \$45 million for diversity, equity, and inclusion scholarships in Burma; cut \$8 million to promote LGBTQ in Africa; cut \$10 million for male circumcision in Mozambique; cut \$20 million for the Arab "Sesame Street" in the Middle East; and we cut \$600 million from National Public Radio. Free enterprise in America is alive and well.

President Donald Trump is the President of peace, ending eight wars in 8 months. Tell me who in history has ever done this.

The war between Israel and Hamas is over. The hostages were returned home. The Iranian nuclear program has been set back for decades, and the Middle East is more stable than it has been in years.

To gain peace through strength, we have invested in America's national defense. We have increased pay for our troops. We are making generational investments in our defense industrial base. We are filling our stockpiles. We are making our soldiers the most lethal fighting force the world has ever seen.

We will never apologize for keeping America safe. Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, the people of America are now seeing through Biden's 4 years of smoke and mirrors here in D.C.

It is a fact that the Clinton-Steele dossier was proven a hoax.

It is a fact that the Department of Justice was weaponized against President Trump.

It is a fact that the Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act raised the United States debt to more than \$38 trillion. It raised inflation to its highest level in 40 years.

It is a fact that Biden's Green New Deal was nothing more than another

scam on the U.S. taxpayers, and ObamaCare, known as the Affordable Care Act, is not affordable to anyone in America.

It is a fact that Space Command is coming to Redstone Arsenal in north Alabama and the Golden Dome is on the horizon.

It is a fact that President Trump and our Republican majority is making America better for the people. America is back.

HEALTHCARE CRISIS

(Mr. COSTA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, with only 10 voting days left in this year's calendar, Congress must act if we are to avert a full-blown healthcare crisis. I rise today to bring attention to the affordability and healthcare crisis that is pending upon us.

I think this is what Americans want us to do as opposed to bailing out Argentina or figuring out how to finance a \$300 million ballroom that will dwarf the size of the White House.

What Americans are concerned about is premiums that are climbing.

What Americans are concerned about is the increase in their grocery bills.

What the Americans I represent in the San Joaquin Valley are concerned about is bearing more and more of this burden and not seeing any potential light at the end of the tunnel.

Families are forced to make impossible choices between putting food on the table or whether or not they should keep their healthcare coverage.

In July, President Trump's one big—I never thought it was beautiful—bill became law. It slashed over \$1 trillion from Medicaid, from children's healthcare coverage, from Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act, adding \$4.2 trillion to our national debt.

Programs that protect children, seniors, and working families are being gutted. In my district alone, over 65,000 people risk losing their Medicaid coverage, threatening access to essential healthcare for vulnerable populations.

Now, despite the passage of the fiscal year 2026 continuing resolution, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, once again, have failed us, I think.

Republicans are threatening the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits that will expire at the end of this year in just four weeks. Open enrollment is now, and Americans are seeing the cost that they are paying for this effort, which has failed so far. But there is still time.

There is still time when families can avert the stark choice of having to pay more for their healthcare or make sacrifices elsewhere in their lives. There is still time to continue these tax credits, so that we can avoid the dramatically higher healthcare costs that our constituents are paying in copayments and deductibles, which is impacting up to

22,000 people in my congressional district alone.

To illustrate what this means, a couple who are 60 years old in Fresno earning \$82,000 a year will pay \$18,000 more per year for coverage. A family of four in Tulare County earning \$64,000 a year will pay \$2,500 more.

This is not fiscal responsibility. This is a Republican healthcare tax hike on working families, imposed in the richest country in the world. I think it is unacceptable. These are not just numbers on a page. These are real people.

It is a mother in Fresno who has to choose between filling her prescription and paying rent. It is a father in Tulare County who may have to decide whether his children can see a doctor when they are sick. It is seniors who have delayed care, skipped medications, or avoided preventive screenings because of these rising costs. These are the consequences of inaction. But there is still time.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have a plan.

Our plan is to keep the premiums affordable.

Our plan prevents Republican healthcare tax hikes.

Our plan requires President Trump to carry out a bipartisan budget. That is what we are supposed to do, a bipartisan budget.

We know healthcare cannot wait, and our families cannot wait. Our Nation needs certainty, affordability, and leadership more than ever.

Let us come together at the table in a bipartisan fashion. That is what my constituents expect of us.

Let us extend the Affordable Care Act tax premiums.

Let us keep healthcare affordable for Americans.

Let us show the American people that Congress can act responsibly, that we can protect our families, that we can deliver on the promises to ensure that no one has to choose between healthcare and their basic needs of the safety net that is a contract that we have with the American people.

Mr. Speaker, our constituents are counting on us. Let us not fail them. Americans deserve affordable healthcare, and we have until the end of this month to make that happen.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENNY "RAY" ADKINS

(Mr. FLEISCHMANN of Tennessee was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and a great patriot, Benny Ray Adkins.

Mr. Speaker, over my 15 years of service in this wonderful Chamber, I have given many speeches. I have eulogized and talked about many great people.

Today is a very special speech for me and for our great Nation.

I knew Benny Ray Adkins back when I practiced law. He worked for the

Hamilton County Courts. He worked for the Sunshine Biscuit Company for years, and Ray was my friend.

When I got elected to Congress, Ray Adkins really stood out to me not only as a mentor but as someone who loves his country. Ray loved the United States Army. He was Army proud. He was a lieutenant colonel. He served 36 years in the United States Army and Army Reserve.

Time and time again, when I needed Ray, whether it was to get advice on active military, veterans affairs, and the like, he was there.

Now, the largest city in my district is Chattanooga, and Ray was from a part of Chattanooga called Lookout Valley, Tiftonia. It is on the western side of Chattanooga.

Ray was always there whether it was Wreaths Across America, Memorial Day, or Veterans Day. He was omnipresent. He was always there for the veterans. It didn't matter if it was World War II, Korea, Desert Storm, Desert Shield, he was always there. He would show up in his uniform.

For the past decade or so, Mr. Speaker, he struggled health-wise, but he would always show up in his uniform. He would always show up Army proud, and he participated in so many different things.

We had a situation where we put together a Military Advisory Board, and I had people from all branches. Ray was so well-respected by everyone, whether it was the Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or the Marines. In that room, he was Ray, the great colonel.

He loved the Army. He loved our country. He loved our veterans. He was a member of the VFW. He was a member of The American Legion. He was named Veteran of the Year in Chattanooga in 2017 and received the Hometown Patriot Award in 2018.

This man was so well revered in Chattanooga and rightfully so. He was honored with the Ray Adkins Interchange by the Tennessee General Assembly, our State assembly in 2021. I drive past that on occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I will end by saying this: I thank Ray for his friendship. I thank him for his service to our great Nation, and I thank him for being a great American. America is a greater nation because of him.

HORRIFIC MASS SHOOTING IN STOCKTON

(Mr. HARDER of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because this weekend my community in Stockton, California, was shaken by a horrific mass shooting.

Families were gathered at a banquet hall for a 2-year-old's birthday party. They were about to cut the cake when gunshots rang out. Four people were killed, including three kids. They were 8, 9, and 14 years old. Thirteen more

were injured. Think about that for a second.

As a dad, I cannot fathom the pain these families are feeling right now. This was supposed to be a moment of celebration, and instead it became a nightmare that has rocked our community to its core.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence to honor the victims, including Amari, Susano, Maya, Journey, and their families as they navigate this tragedy.

My wife, Pam, and I are praying for the victims, their families, and our community. We are and always will be Stockton Strong.

HONORING DEPUTY TERRI SWEETING-MASHKOW

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life, service, and sacrifice of Deputy Terri Sweeting-Mashkow of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office, who was tragically slain in the line of duty.

Deputy Sweeting-Mashkow served the community with courage, professionalism, and deep compassion. She was the kind of public servant every community hopes for, steadfast in her duty, kind to those in need, and unwavering in her commitment to keeping Indian River County safe.

Her loss is felt not only by her brothers and sisters in law enforcement, but by every family she protected, every neighbor she reassured, and every life she touched. Today, we honor not only her heroism, but the legacy she leaves behind.

We also hold in our prayers her husband, Casey; her daughter, and her family; and the entire Indian River County Sheriff's Office as they face this heartbreaking tragedy of a person who served our community for over 25 years. May they find strength in knowing that this Nation stands with them as they face this very difficult time.

I thank our sheriff in Indian River County, Sheriff Flowers, and his incredible team who put together a dignified funeral yesterday honoring her life.

Deputy Terri Sweeting-Mashkow gave her life in service to others. For that, we are forever grateful. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her memory and supporting all those who continue to answer the call to protect and serve their communities.

HONORING DAVID LONG

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of David Long, a local locksmith in Indian River County, an Army veteran who was tragically killed in Vero Beach while assisting deputies during a court-ordered eviction. David was simply doing his job, fulfilling a legal obligation, supporting law enforcement, and helping keep the process orderly and safe.

By every account, he was a kind, dependable member of the community.